

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 52 No. 18

May 12, 2006

Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Spouses meal

A free deployed spouses meal is at 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the La Dolce Vita dining facility. The dinner kick-offs with a short reintegration presentation and a question and answer session. Representatives from the family support center, family advocacy, military equal opportunity and the chapel will be on hand. Families should RSVP through their first sergeants. For more information, call Ext. 8206.

### Road closure

Viale Gori, the road between the base exchange and Hangar Four will be partially closed Monday through May 19. All facilities along this road will be accessible from both ends. These dates are subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. For more information, call Sandra Redolfi-Fagara at Ext. 5758

### Scholarship

A new scholarship for dependents and spouses provides up to \$5,000 a year. People interested in the scholarship must submit an application by May 30 to <http://www.thanksusa.org>.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

### Blazing hot

A fireman with Vigili del Fuoco (Italian Fire Department), responds to a joint American-Italian Major Accident Response Exercise outside the main gate May 4. For more photos, see page 11.

## Aviano gains national recognition

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For the past 50 years, the National Restaurant Association and the Hennessy Travelers Association have honored the special achievements of Air Force food service facilities worldwide. This year, they are recognizing one of Aviano's own.

Tech. Sgt. Derrick Wells, 31st Services

Squadron La Dolce Vita dining facility manager, was one of five U.S. Air Forces in Europe Airmen selected for the award and will attend the award presentation in Chicago May 20.

The Hennessy trophy is an annual award presented to Air Force installations with the best food service programs. The award is

**See Award, page 5**

**Spouse It Up:** The next Spouse It Up is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Area D with a Cinco De Mayo theme. Call Ext. 5407 for details.

### 31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	462.0	304
	<b>-52.0</b>	<b>-14</b>

Information current as of Thursday.



### Blog safely

In today's age of chatting online and daily blogging, Air Forces members need to keep operation security in mind.

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### Kuk Sool Won

Aviano's martial arts team kicked the competition out the door at the recent world Kuk Sool Won tournament in Barcelona, Spain.

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Editorial Staff

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31st Fighter Wing**  
Brig. Gen.  
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### 31st Fighter Wing

## Commander's Corner

**G**ood day, members of the World's Finest Wing! It's a great honor to be back in circulation among you all. I returned Monday afternoon from the U.S. after receiving training on the National Security Personnel System and taking a few days to help my children along (this means writing checks for college kids). While I learned a lot across the pond, it's always good to be back among you all – the World's Finest!

I want to take time today to discuss upcoming events over the next few weeks. Of course this weekend we will host the Primavera Bazaar in Hangars One and Two and the wash rack, which will provide us with sufficient quantity and variety of merchandise and food to keep us all happy! Take time to stop by – you won't be sorry if you do, but you will if you don't.

On May 19 we will host a night of fun and revelry we call the MASH Bash. With a lineup crafted with surgical precision by our own medics, the evening promises to be a gala affair. Highlights will include a MASH character costume contest, combat dining out rules, grog bowl, great food prepared by our Chief's group and good old-fashioned camaraderie. You can get tickets from your squadron first sergeant or call Chief Master Sgt. LaShawn Scott at Ext. 5467. The tickets are priced right and they are listed in the MASH Bash story on page 5 of today's paper ... Barb and I look forward to seeing y'all there!

Then May 25, we kick off the "101 Critical Days of Summer" with a wing commander's call at Hangar One. There will be two sessions – one at 7:30 a.m. and another at 3:30 p.m. The purpose is to remind everyone to have fun this summer and over the upcoming 4-day Memorial Day weekend, but to do so safely by engaging your judgment and common sense. This call is mandatory, no exceptions, so I look forward to seeing 100 percent of you all there.

Moving on now to Hails and Farewells. Col. Charlie Webb, incoming 31st Maintenance Group Commander, and his family arrived in town this week. Col. Betsy Strines will be moving on just north of us to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. While we will miss Betsy immensely, we would like to welcome Charlie and his fam-

ily to the home of the World's Finest! I look forward to seeing many of you at the maintenance group change of command at 8 a.m., May 30 in the Victor Loop.

Another recent arrival is our new club manager, Ted Watson. Mr. Watson arrived May 5 from Kadena Air Base, Japan, where he was also club manager. While at Kadena, Ted garnered Best in PACAF honors in 2004 and Best in Air Force honors for 2005. He will bring a smile and great energy to our club ... which is already doing an admirable job for us. Stop by and meet Ted and the rest of our club professionals ... you'll be glad you did!

Finally, I want to recognize another significant event occurring Sunday – Mother's Day. I know you are all way ahead of me, but I want to be certain you all plan to take time to recognize your mothers, wives, girlfriends, or significant others on this important date. First, none of us would be here without our mom. Second, the sacrifices moms make for their children and families is legendary. So take time out to purchase a bouquet, and/or her favorite item, and honor Mom this Sunday – she deserves every kindness you can offer and much, much more ... And consider the La Bella Vista Club Mother's Day brunch – I've seen the special menu and it's gonna be a humdinger!

In closing, it's great to be back amongst you all. Enjoy the bazaar this weekend and continue to work as a team ... on and off duty. If you're going to drink, have a designated driver. If you need help, pull out your wingman card and give your wingman/supervisor/AADD/ or me a call (0434-30-4811) – happy to pick anyone up anytime, and you can take that to the bank. Happy Mother's Day to Moms out there ... thanks for all you do and God bless you! For the rest of you, I know you will "Return with Honor" bright and early Monday ... see you then, right back here at the World's Finest Ranch!



### Aviano Airman of the Week

**Name:** Airman 1st Class Matthew Aldridge

**Unit:** 31st Medical Group

**Job:** Dental Assistant

**Hometown:** Silver Lake, Kan.

**Family:** One older brother and two younger sisters.

**Hobbies:** Working out, sports and traveling.

**Why joined:** "I wanted to do something different with my life that was both exciting and rewarding."



# Wing plans to dine out "MASH" style

Aviano Airmen, families get to experience military traditions with a combat sitcom twist ...

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Military life revolves around traditions. The way we salute, address each other and celebrate career milestones all have deep roots. Now the Aviano community as a whole will have the opportunity to experience another unique military tradition.

The 31st Fighter Wing is hosting a MASH Bash-themed combat dining out at 6 p.m. May 19 in Hangar One.

A combat dining out is different from the military members-only dining in, but both are formal social military functions designed to bring units together.

"Traditionally, dining outs are formal affairs and everyone wears their mess dress" said Chief Master Sgt. La Shawn Scott, 31st Dental Squadron and event coordinator. "The combat dining out is the newer version and is typically more fun and appealing to young folks."

In keeping with Air Force custom, the MASH Bash will feature two mainstays of the combat version to a dining out – the grog bowl and the obstacle course.

"The obstacle course makes it a little more challenging to get to the grog bowl," said Chief Scott. "The grog bowl itself is considered the 'alley of shame,' which is why we have them

go through the obstacle course to get to it. The concept is that people who are disobeying the rules and orders of the mess will get sent to the grog bowl."

While the obstacle course and grog bowl are the main traditions of the combat dining out, Chief Scott said the 'combat' part allows for conventional dining out rules to be bent a little. Beyond those two fixtures, anything else is "just a matter of using your imagination."

That creative license led to the other event highlights, including a MASH costume contest – people are encouraged to dress like their favorite MASH sitcom character – and, staying with the MASH theme, a medical competition.

"We also decided to add a little self-aid and buddy care to it to enhance the concept that it's all about readiness – this is why we exist in the military," Chief Scott said. "We can't give out all the secrets, but let's just say, let's hope your self aid and buddy care is up to date."

Although the combat dining out is a relatively modern military tradition, the actual concept of dining ins and outs goes back to the medieval era.

"The tradition of dining outs date back to knighthood times and King Arthur," said Staff Sgt. Leonard Johnson, 31st Medical Operations Squadron dining out committee member. "Hap Arnold used to have 'wing dings' for his Airmen in the 1930s and that's probably where our modern ones come from."

Tickets are \$5 for E-1 to E-4, \$15 for E-5 to E-8 and O-1 to O-5 and \$25 for E-9 and O-6 and can be purchased through first sergeants. The menu includes ribs, chicken, bratwursts, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw and baked beans. Since the event is a combat dining out, people should plan on bringing water guns.

**Power of Presence:** Share career milestones with the new Power of Presence Web site at [www.usafe.af.mil/pop](http://www.usafe.af.mil/pop). Call Ext. 7344 for details.

## Award, from page 1

based on the entire scope of an installation's food service program with winners displaying excellence in management effectiveness, force readiness support, food quality, employee and customer relations, resource conservation, training and safety awareness. Each installation is evaluated by teams consisting of members from the National Restaurant Association, the Society for Foodservice Management, the International Food Service Executives Association and the Air Force.

Each team selects an Air Force military food service person who exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism, attitude, and culinary skill as the recipient of the award of excellence.

Sergeant Wells, who is constantly looking for ways to improve menu items, the facility's atmosphere and its overall appearance, said that winning has been an honor. "This is a career milestone that not many people in food service achieve," he said.

With 11 years of food service experience and five deployments under his belt, Sergeant Wells has had plenty of practice perfecting his skills. Besides his professional knowledge, Sergeant Wells has a

passion for food and cooking, which goes back to his early childhood.

"My love for cooking began when I was young. To help raise their six children, my grandparents worked long hours. My mother and grandmother would tell me stories about life during that time and how difficult it was to make ends meet. Payday was at the end of the week and nothing brought the family closer than good food," Sergeant Wells said. "Sunday was a special day. The family would attend church and then gather around the dinner table for a big meal. Sunday dinners were like Thanksgiving. My grandmother and mother's ability to cook was nothing short of art. Each meal was a creation of beauty and flavor that truly united the family."

Sergeant Wells turned that love of cooking into a successful military career and has received several other awards such as USAFE's 2005 Services Technician of the Year and the 31st Services Squadron NCO of the Year for 2005.

"Sergeant Wells is an outstanding food service manager who attacks all challenges with enthusiasm and dedication," said Maj. David Kretz, 31st Services Squadron commander.

As the La Dolce Vita dining facility

manager, Sergeant Wells directly leads 29 personnel and is responsible for maintaining the \$1.2 million facility, including the flight kitchen.

In addition to being recognized at the national awards ceremony, Sergeant Wells will receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

As part of the 50th year Hennessy Anniversary celebration, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation has established a special scholarship program. These scholarships were established to encourage study and careers in the restaurant and food service industry after completing their Air Force service, and can be used at a restaurant and hospitality management or culinary school of the recipient's choice any time over the next five years.

Sergeant Wells said that although the recognition is nice, it's the satisfied customers that really count.

"Every day I am at work and I see the smiling faces of the dining patrons I know that I made the right decision [to join the service]," he said. "I strive each day to make every meal like Sunday dinner at grandmother's house. Even if it is only for a moment, I want my customers to forget about their daily problems and enjoy good food."

# Military bases tighten up on Internet chitchat

*The new "blogging" trend makes a terrorist's job of tracking Air Force people, events now easier than ever*

*Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Operation security experts across the Air Force are focusing more attention on the idle chitchat that now runs rampant among Internet blogs.

Typically a mix of what is happening in a person's life and what's occurring on the Web, blogs are the public diaries of the 21st century. The activity of updating a blog is "blogging" and someone who keeps one is a "blogger." Blogs are usually updated daily using software that allows people with little or no technical background to update and maintain the blog.

"Over time, people can learn an awful lot from these sites," said Tech. Sgt. Vernon Coughran, Aviano's OPSEC program manager. "Some of the most seemingly innocent information discussed over the Internet can be pieced together to form a much larger

picture of our capabilities and vulnerabilities, and that can be costly from a force protection standpoint."

Blog themes are as varied as their authors. Many focus on politics or family issues. The number of blogs posted by military personnel in Iraq is expected to swell to more than 1,000 by the end of the year. For some, it's an easy way to share photos and news with a lot of folks back home. Others take a stab at telling the "real story" about what's happening in Iraq.

"A lot of these sites are a gold mine if you're looking for information about a military member's lifestyle, what his or her family is up to, what major events are going on, and who the important people are in the unit or community," Sergeant Coughran said. "Not every adversary will want all this information, but we know for certain that these are pieces of the puzzle that terrorists go after."



Watch what you "say" on Internet chat and blog sites. Terrorists know how to piece small bits of information together to get the whole picture.

The importance of exploiting open-source materials and building a profile of the U.S. servicemember was addressed in a terrorist handbook, dubbed "The Manchester Document," that was confiscated in England in February 2000. The handbook encouraged its spies to give attention to the opinions, comments and jokes of the common people.

"It's the same principle as answering the phone in your office when a coworker is absent," explained Sergeant Coughran. "We must be aware not to volunteer that he or she is TDY, where they've gone, how long they'll be gone and so on. A simple 'No', with maybe a 'May I help you?' instead, would be sufficient."

Another example of an OPSEC violation would be a military blog with too much information. Often, these are maintained by a spouse and provide a name and photo of the servicemember, the couple's birth dates, a home address and even when and where she or he received medical treatments. The information could be used for identity theft or to target the family.

"The point we're trying to make to the audience is that all critical information is important to protect, even if it's unclassified," said Sergeant Coughran. "It's not that we shouldn't use the technology or the convenience of the Web. We should understand the risks, adjust how we deal with the vulnerabilities, and use the technology accordingly."

**Honor guard:** The Aviano Base Honor Guard seeks volunteers of all ranks. For details, call Tech. Sgt. Edward Sarmiento at Ext. 5611.

## *International affairs career field opens for civilians*

The success of Air Force expeditionary air and space forces conducting global operations and fighting the war on terrorism relies heavily on international relationships. Building these critical relationships requires skilled, knowledgeable and experienced international affairs professionals.

Air Force officials began implementing the international affairs career field, or IACF, this spring. This new career field is tied directly to the Total Force Development concept. Through this career field, Air Force civilians are given additional opportunities to develop skills and experiences equal to their military counterparts.

"IACF is a key element in deliberately developing our (international affairs) professionals and increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of our already highly skilled team," said Bruce Lemkin, deputy under secretary of the Air Force for international affairs. "We must transform our existing civilian professional development programs to prepare our personnel for future success."

In 2004, the Air Force replaced career programs with career fields to provide a more structured framework for civilian workforce development. Every civilian position in the Air Force belongs to a functional community and associated career field. Today, there are 21 active career fields, with four more under development.

"IACF will join the ranks of Air Force career fields and leverage the existing development framework," Mr. Lemkin said. "This new career field will ensure that we place the right people, with the right technical and leadership skills, in the right positions, at the right time."

The international affairs community will benefit from the existing Air Force career field model, which provides deliberate training and education resources to develop future Air Force leaders.

"From an individual perspective, IACF will deliver a flexible career development path, increased opportunities for challenging work experiences and timely, appropriate training and education," Mr. Lemkin said. "Furthermore, IACF will ensure that the international affairs community has a cadre of highly trained civilians for the total force."

"When IACF reaches full operational capability in October 2007, it will ensure our ability to recruit, educate, train and retain a superior team capable of meeting the challenges of the dynamic global security environment," Mr. Lemkin said.

Representatives from the IACF development team will tour bases this year to give an IACF information briefing. For more information about IACF visit the Web site at <http://www.iaprograms.com>. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Service)



# Aviano gears up for Phase I, II exercises

*Courtesy of the  
31st Mission Support Group*

Are you ready for the upcoming Phase I and Phase II exercises? Most seasoned Air Force members have been through several exercises, but not everyone at Aviano has. Here is some up-to-date information to help familiarize you with what to expect during the upcoming exercises.

During a Phase I exercise, inspectors evaluate how well the base transforms from peacetime readiness into a wartime posture. A Phase II exercise measures the unit's ability to meet wartime tasks.

The four major areas that will be evaluated for units with wartime or contingency missions are: initial response, employment, mission support and the ability to survive and operate in a hostile environment.

**Q:** What is the Common Core Readiness Criteria?

**A:** CCRC represents six basic, overarching readiness criteria that all inspectors will apply to each area of their respective operation readiness inspections. They are:

- Threat – Is the unit able to implement and sustain appropriate measures to meet changing force protection conditions?

- Safety – Does the unit safety program facilitate unit readiness?

- Security – Were adequate security measures employed throughout the exercise? Were operations security procedures incorporated into plans and followed throughout the exercise? Were proper communication security materials available, as specified in tasked operations



**DO** be like this Airman and have all your MOPP gear labeled and ready to put on.

Photo by Senior Airman Nicole Adamowicz

plans, to ensure mission accomplishment? Were computer and communication security and other measures employed to deny the enemy information?

- Communications and information – Were these operations effective?

- Training – Were units properly trained and equipped to perform wartime duties?

- Operational Risk Management – Were units applying ORM principles and concepts to assess the risks associated with their daily mission?

Before the Phase I exercise, Airmen should:

- Go over your mobility checklists.
- Ensure all ancillary training is up to date.
- Ensure mobility bags are complete.
- Ensure personal bags are complete.
- See unit deployment manager's for questions

Before a Phase II exercise, Airmen should:

- Make sure their protective equipment is ready and marked appropriately with rank, name, AFSC etc. Simulated M9 tape should be placed at ankles, wrists and biceps.

- Inspect and clean gas mask and sign off yellow tag.

- Clean their canteen.

- Read their Airman's Manual.

**Q:** What happens during Phase II?

**A:** Airmen will be performing their jobs in a wartime simulated environment.

- Unit personnel are assigned shifts.

- Members begin to wear and carry individual protective equipment.

- Buildings and vehicles are prepped for contamination control using M8 paper.

- Entry control points and decontamination centers are established at building entrances.

- Members should expect to be in MOPP 4 for extended periods of time.

- Conduct building sweeps and damage assessments after attacks and report accordingly.

- Have their Airman's Manual on their person at all times.

- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

- Supervisors should ensure proper hydration and watch for stress.

**Q:** What are the five Mission Oriented Protective Postures?

**A:** MOPP 0 - Carry IPE gear.

- MOPP 1 - Wear overgarment. Carry boots, gloves and mask.

- MOPP 2 - Wear overgarment and boots. Carry gloves and mask.

- MOPP 3 - Wear overgarment, boots and mask and carry gloves.

- MOPP 4 - Wear overgarment,

**CCAF:** The education center holds Community College of the Air Force information sessions at 9 a.m. Mondays in Bldg. 186, Area One.

## Don't discover safety on accident

According to Aviano regulations, drivers are not allowed to use hand-held cell phones while driving. Here are some tips for using your cell phone properly when in a vehicle:

- Turn the phone off before you start driving. Let callers leave a message.

- If there are passengers in the vehicle, let one of them take or make the call. If you're expecting an important call, let someone else drive.

- If you have to make or receive a call, look for a safe opportunity to pull over and park.

- Use only a speakerphone or a hands-free phone. Make sure you put on the hands-free accessories before you start driving.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Maj. Danielle Eigner, 31st Medical Group, and a Pordenone Medical Response Team member work together on a simulated aircraft accident victim during the MARE May 4.

## Joining forces

*Aviano and Italian forces teamed up for a Major Accident Response Exercise held on AP Highway May 4. Working alongside various 31st Fighter Wing organizations were the Pordenone Fire Department and Chemical Accident Response Team, Italian medical responders and local Carabinieri.*

Tech Sgt. Joe Graves, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, uses a land mobile radio to coordinate the vapor suppression of a simulated accident scene where multiple cars were on fire.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets

Italian firemen act as accident victims for the joint American-Italian exercise. The exercise was designed to test and strengthen the response capability between Italian and American emergency responders.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

**Above:** Members of the Pordenone Fire Department help put out car fires during the MARE May 4. In addition to the Pordenone firefighters, the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, 31st Medical Group and 31st Security Forces Squadron members provided exercise support.

**Top:** Airman 1st Class Greg Cunningham, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, center, plays a simulated aircraft accident victim. The local Italian Bio Environmental team make sure Airman Cunningham is free of jet fuel in a decontamination tent.



### Fly Bys

#### Upcoming festivals

- Experience Florence's largest art festival including music, drama and dance performances throughout May and June.

- A Friuli Venezia Giulia regional "tasting" fair is all day Saturday and Sunday and May 21 in Villa Manin in Passariano. There will be multiple stands for tasting typical Friulano products, with music and entertainment in beautiful scenery. Take SS13 toward Udine and look for the Villa Manin signs. Visit [www.prolocoregionefvg.org](http://www.prolocoregionefvg.org) for more information.

- A fair of local and Austrian products is Saturday and Sunday in San Daniele. There will be stands for tasting typical products and music and entertainment.

- A Lands of Dogi Festival is 8:30 a.m. to midnight Saturday and Sunday in the Portogruaro downtown area. There will be multiple stands for tasting typical products of the Veneto region. Entertainment includes a gondola show at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and fireworks at 11 p.m. Sunday.

For more information on these festivals, call Ext. 7555.

#### Painting

"Pio Semeghini e il Chiarismo," a painting exhibit, is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., through May 28 in medieval Mantua. Visit [www.fondazionesemeghini.it](http://www.fondazionesemeghini.it) for details.

## Venice offers a world of culture ... just a short train ride away



The four bronze horses outside the Basilica San Marco aren't the originals. Instead, they are reproductions of sculptures that the Venetians took from Constantinople in 1204. The original horses are in the Museo Marciano.

The Ponte di Rialto, one of the most famous bridges in the world, might have had a completely different name. In the 16th century, the Republic of Venice held a competition to design the Grand Canal's first stone bridge. Architects including Michelangelo, Palladio and Sansovino submitted designs, but the job went to Antonio da Ponte.



Although one of the most romantic ways to view Venice is from a gondola ride, they can be pricey. If you're going to take the plunge, go for a ride along the Grand Canal at sunset or early morning. For a more cost-effective option, take one of the vaporetto water taxis. Vaporetto Line One will take you along the entire canal.

**Travel Web site:** Visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. The site lists important travel info.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Gregory

The Hohensalzburg Fortress in **Salzburg, Austria**, gives people spectacular views of the city.

## Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Guided Trieste and Miramare Castle
- Saturday - Guided Salzburg and the Sound of Music Tour
- May 20 - Guided San Marino
- May 26 -29 - Naples, Amalfi Coast and Pompei.

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and

departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

## Bazaar

The Primavera Bazaar is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in Hangars One and Two and the wash rack.

## Phone operations

Beginning Monday, the base telephone operators will transfer all mid-shift calls to the 31st Fighter Wing command post from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The command post will handle all mid-shift calls until January 2007, when telephone operation functions are consolidated at Ramstein. All other times will remain the same.

## Supply customers

From Monday through May 31, people will not be able to access the supply customer service center in Bldg. 10295, when coming from the direction of Pass and Registration due to road construction. Customers must take Perimeter Road toward Sierra Loop, turn left in front of Bldg. 1100, or right if coming from the Roveredo gate and follow the road around

to the fire station area. For more information, call Ext. 7404 or Ext. 7866

## Road work

The pavement markings in Area F are being repainted through May 25. The dates are subject to change due to weather and other circumstances. People must not park in coned areas. For more information, call Ext. 6018.

## Commencement

Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 graduates from the Community College of the Air Force, on-base colleges and universities and those who earned a degree from an online institution will be honored at a commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the mass briefing facility. A reception will follow at the La Bella Vista Club. For more information, call the education center at Ext. 5330.

## School board

The final meeting of the Aviano School Board is at 4 p.m. Thursday in the community center in Area One.

New board members will be introduced. A review of the year's activities will be discussed. All community members are welcome to attend.

## Help wanted

The Aviano Thrift Shop is now accepting applications for a part-time bookkeeper position opens July. For more information, please call the thrift shop during business hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Ext. 5428.

## Wives conference

A Wives of Warriors conference is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and May 19 at the La Bella Vista Club. WOW is a group of experienced military wives who are coming to speak about the trials and perks of being a military wife. Free child care will be provided. E-mail [stacy.bloyd@aviano.af.mil](mailto:stacy.bloyd@aviano.af.mil) to reserve a spot.

WOW is also hosting a pot luck from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 20 in the chapel annex in Area One. For more information about these events, call Natalie Carmack at 349-765-9485 or Kristy Lanham at Ext. 5407.

## Raising teens

Aviano High School is hosting an informational session on "The Echo Generation: Is your teen telling you what you want to hear?" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the high school. Discussion topics include drugs, trends among teens, reducing alcohol and drug use and negotiating with teens. Parents can sign up for the class by e-mailing [dee.oleson@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:dee.oleson@eu.dodea.edu), [cheryl.owen@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:cheryl.owen@eu.dodea.edu) or [renee.moore@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:renee.moore@eu.dodea.edu).

## Mentoring

A visit to a Porcia elementary school fifth grade English class is from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. June 5. People interested in volunteering must attend a briefing from 5:15 to 6 p.m. May 22 at the Family Support Center in Area One. For more in-

formation, call Master Sgt. Christine Bowlsby at Ext. 7926 or e-mail [christine.bowlsby@aviano.af.mil](mailto:christine.bowlsby@aviano.af.mil).

## Hello, baby

The 31st Civil Engineer Squadron Spouses' Group is hosting a "Welcome Baby" event at the 31st CES compound at 11 a.m. June 5. All 31st CES spouses and children are invited to attend. For more information, call Kim Castro at 338-375-6996.

## Test pilot selection

The Air Force will hold its next test pilot school selection board at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 30 through Nov. 3 for pilots, navigators and engineers from all aircraft types. All active-duty officers eligible in accordance with AFI 99-107 may apply, however, only those available for re-assignment who meet time-on-station requirements will be considered.

Completed applications must arrive no later than Sept. 15 at HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733. For more information on application procedures, visit <http://www.edwards.af.mil/TPS/>.

## Club scholarships

Air Force Services is conducting its annual club membership scholarship program. Current club members and their family members who have been accepted by or enrolled in an accredited school for the Fall 2006 term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible to apply. Students may be working toward an undergraduate or graduate degree. Grandchildren are eligible if they are a dependent of the club member.

Entrants must provide a 500-word essay on the topic: "Proud to be an American." Each entry form must be accompanied by college proof of acceptance. All entries must be submitted to the La Bella Vista Club by July 14. Call Ext. 4303 for details.

## Reel Times

**Today, 7 p.m.** - "16 Blocks" Rated PG-13 - A troubled NYPD officer is forced to take a witness 16 blocks from the police station to 100 Center Street, although no one wants the duo to make it. Starring: Bruce Willis, Dante 'Mos Def' Smith

**Today, 10 p.m.** - "Inside Man" Rated R - A tough cop matches wits with a clever bank robber as a dangerous cat-and-mouse game unfolds, while a power broker with a hidden agenda injects even more instability into an already volatile situation. Starring: Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "Madea's Family Reunion" Rated PG-13 - A southern matriarch tries to plan a family reunion while taking care of a rebellious runaway and her niece's relationship trouble. Starring: Tyler Perry, Blair Underwood

**Saturday, 10 p.m.** - "Running Scared" Rated R - When two boys get their hands on a mob gun which was used to shoot a cop, the father of one of the boys takes to the streets to try to recover the weapon before the mob finds out it's missing. Starring: Paul Walker, Wayne Brady

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "Inside Man" Rated R

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Inside Man" Rated R

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "16 Blocks" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)



## Education

Term V consolidated schedules are now available at the education center, Bldg. 186 in Area One. Registration for active duty members begins May 22. Spouse tuition assistance applications are due today. For more information, call the education center at Ext. 5330.

## Coin contest

The Aviano Airman's Advisory Council is holding a coin designing contest open to everyone on base. Designs must have "Aviano Airman Advisory Council" somewhere on the coin, must have a logo or motto and must be in good taste. Designs should be submitted by May 31 to [AAAC@aviano.af.mil](mailto:AAAC@aviano.af.mil).

The winner will be announced at the next Airman's All Nighter June 30. The winner receives a letter of appreciation, a new AAAC coin and a \$100 scholarship. For more information, e-mail [aaac@aviano.af.mil](mailto:aaac@aviano.af.mil).

## Estate claims

It is with great regret that the 712th Red Horse Flight, Camp Darby, Italy announces the passing of Senior Airman Patrick J. McCord. Any person(s) having claims for or against the estate of Airman McCord should contact 1st Lt. Kurt J. Umlauf, the Summary Court Officer, at DSN 633-7053.

## VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars who would like to help organize a VFW post at Aviano can call Fate Kirby at the retiree activity office from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ext. 5665.

## Power of Presence

Aviano Airmen have a new way to share career milestones with family and friends around the world. The Power of Presence Web site, found at [www.usafe.af.mil/pop](http://www.usafe.af.mil/pop), displays photos for download of Airmen receiving unit, quarterly and annual awards, promotions, leadership visits and other significant events.

For more information, call Senior Airman Sarah Gregory at Ext. 7344.

## Remembrance

The 603rd Air Control Squadron is hosting a remembrance open house and ceremony beginning May 19 at the 603rd ACS compound. All community members are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. The open house begins at 8 a.m. and a memorial ceremony for Airman 1st Class Antoine Holt, a 603rd ACS member who was killed while serving at Balad Air Base, Iraq, begins at 10 a.m. The ceremony includes a monument dedication and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Roger Thornton at Ext. 4369.

## Heritage month

The Asian-Pacific Heritage Month continues with Asian-Pacific-related trivia questions on the AFN morning radio show, Aviano Elementary School coloring, drawing and essay contests and an Asian-Pacific lunch at the Buon Appetito and La Dolce Vita dining facilities Wednesday and May 31.

Other events include an Asian-Pacific dance demonstration from 2 to 3 p.m. May 20 at the base library and a dinner banquet from 6 to 9 p.m. May 25 at the La Bella Vista Club. Tickets are \$18.50 for non-members, \$16.50 for members and \$4.50 for children and are sold from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in the base exchange lobby. Tickets will be sold until May 18. For more information about these events, call Senior Master Sgt. Gil Corpuz at Ext. 7635 or Master Sgt. Lorenzo Steele at Ext. 5636.

## Outprocessing

All Airmen undergoing permanent change of station moves, retirements or separations are now required to use the virtual out processing application through the virtual Military Personnel Flight. Bases currently not using the vOP system will

# UPCLOSE

*and personal with Aviano's best*



Staff Sgt. Amanda Robles was recently selected for the Chief's Choice for her work as the 31st Maintenance Group information manager. Described by her supervisor as dedicated and hardworking, Sergeant Robles is a consummate professional. "Mandy makes my job easier - she's everything you could want in an NCO," said supervisor Master Sgt. Andrea Cowper, 31st MXG administration command superintendent. "Sergeant Robles is the epitome of what the chief's award is about. She steps up to the plate without being asked." Besides being named Chief's Choice, Sergeant Robles was also selected as Functional Area Records Area Manager of the Quarter. She spends her time volunteering for the Dragon Wagon, hiking, traveling, biking and reading.

**What do you think are the most important qualities an Airman should have?**

**A:** Self-initiative and a positive, professional attitude.

**Q: What is your favorite Air Force memory so far?**

**A:** My F-16 incentive ride at Eglin, Air Force Base, Fla.

**Q: Where is your hometown? What do you miss most about it?**

**A:** Mesa, Ariz. I miss the warm weather and beautiful desert scenery.

**Q: Who is your role model and why?**

**A:** Jesus Christ, because he is the example that I try to follow daily.

**Q: What kind of impression do you hope to leave on people?**

**A:** I hope people will find me humble and trustworthy.

**Q: Why did you enlist in**



**the Air Force?**

**A:** For the travel opportunities, educational benefits and job security.

**Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

**A:** I see myself still in the Air Force, hopefully as a master sergeant with my masters degree.

*(Compiled by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory, 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*

be required to transition to it no later than May 30. The online process will also eliminate paper checklists and most in-person out-processing requirements.

For more information, call the MPF at Ext. 7216.

## Attic volunteers

The Airman's Attic needs motivated volunteers to re-

ceive, sort and stock donations two days a week. The Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. Individuals and organizations can sign up to volunteer by visiting the Aviano Top Three Association's Web page via the Aviano intranet, or call Senior Master Sgt. Michael Land at Ext. 8295.

# Martial arts team kicks it up

*Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs*

Aviano's Kuk Sool Won School of Martial Arts recently took second place at the fourth Kuk Sool Won tournament held in Barcelona, Spain.

Seven schools competed and more than 200 people attended the event. Aviano's team, made up of 18 youth and adults from the community, came back with a total of 42 medals.

Event highlights included Judo Dylan Mejia receiving the Grand Champion award for the 10-16 year-old age division as a black belt with five gold medals and Frankie Cade receiving the Grand Champion award for his combined second degree black belt division, also with five gold medals.

The event was broken up into two days, allowing the participants to learn from Master Alex Suh, a sixth degree black belt, and to test for advancements in the community on the first day.

On day two of the tournament, the schools were pitted against each other. The martial



*Courtesy photo*

George Mejia, right, spars with Amado Garcia during a Kuk Sool Won demonstration.

artists were tested on katas, form techniques, board breaking and weapon skills.

Along with the medals, the Aviano Kuk Sool Won School was able to return with seven new black belt-wearing youth.

"Achieving a black belt in this martial art takes determination and skill as well as time," said George Mejia, assistant Kuk Sool Won instructor. These students had been training for five to six years for the opportunity to test. Amado Garcia, the head instructor in Aviano, took the first part of ten tests to achieve the fourth level of black belt.

Those who are interested in Kuk Sool Won are welcome to attend the school's weekly classes for students from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, or the adult classes from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Aviano Elementary School. The group will also perform demonstrations at 2 p.m. Saturday during the Primavera Bazaar, and at the Asian Pacific Heritage dinner banquet May 25.

## Did you know?

Although the study of Kuk Sool Won covers an extensive variety of martial arts techniques, it also includes the study of healing techniques and the development of internal power. Mental strength is equally important as physical strength and helps instill self-confidence, self-discipline and the psychological and spiritual values which are traditionally associated with the character of a martial artist.

**Get biking:** Join outdoor recreation on a local area bike ride. Call Ext. 8625 for information.

## Aviano flag football schedule

### Monday

5:30 p.m. – 31st CES vs. 31st MDG  
6:30 p.m. – 31st LRS vs. Bravo Co.  
7:30 p.m. – 31st AMXS vs. 31st CS

### Tuesday

5:30 p.m. – 31st LRS vs. AMXS  
6:30 p.m. – 31st CES vs. SFS  
7:30 p.m. – 31st CS vs. 31st MXG

### Wednesday

5:30 p.m. – 31st OSS vs. 603 ACS  
6:30 p.m. – 31st CS vs. MXS-PMEL  
7:30 p.m. – 31st MDG vs. Bravo Co.

### Thursday

5:30 p.m. – MXS PMEL vs. 31st AMXS  
6:30 p.m. – Bravo Co. vs. 31st OSS  
7:30 p.m. – 31st LRS vs. 31st MXG

### May 22

5:30 p.m. – 31st LRS vs. MXS-PMEL  
6:30 p.m. – 31st CES vs. 31st MXG  
7:30 p.m. – 31st MDG vs. 31st AMXS

*All games take place at the Dragon Fitness Center football field.*

## Fly Bys

### Baseball

Pony League baseball is for boys ages 15 to 18 who are not on an Aviano Youth Program league team. The team will play other American and some Italian teams. For more information, call Aaron Stauffer or John Hernandez at Ext. 4034.

### Softball

Tryouts for the men's varsity softball team are Monday through May 15. Those interested may call Master Sgt. Ed Michaud at Ext. 1008 or e-mail him at edward.michaud@aviano.af.mil.

### Umpires needed

Aviano Youth Programs is looking for umpires for youth baseball and softball. To volunteer call Shalee Torrence at Ext. 4784 or e-mail shalee.torrence@aviano.af.mil.

### Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8 a.m. Sunday. The group leaves the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Pordenone. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

### Intramural Sports

The intramural softball season starts June 5. Letters of intent are due to the Dragon Fitness Center by May 23. A coaches meeting is at 2 p.m. May 25 at the Dragon Fitness Center. For details, call Tim Williams at Ext. 7574.

### Officials needed

The Aviano Sports Officials Association is looking for softball officials and scorekeepers for the upcoming intermural softball seasons. For more information, call Bill Dellick at Ext. 8763 or Robby England at Ext. 7459.

### Fishing Trip

A fishing trip to Caorle is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 21. The cost is \$75 per person and includes all equipment use. For more information, call Ext. 8625.

# Spouses serve on the home front

**By Lt. Col. Darrell Raynor**  
*31st Mission Support Squadron commander*

The Air Force realizes the hardship and sacrifices made by our spouses and families as the nation continues to wage the global war on terrorism. Our spouses serve our nation just as we in uniform serve. They commit themselves to the Air Force just as service members do, and they make an immeasurable contribution to the readiness of our Air Force.

I'm convinced the success we enjoy as an air force and on a personal level could not happen without the support of our spouses. Often, the love and support of a spouse has driven a military member to achieve excellence. It truly takes a special person to be willing to accept the absence of their loved ones and the sometimes long and unpredictable work hours – often having to explain to a child why mom or dad can't be at home. These husbands and wives keep the home and family running smoothly.

As our AEF 9/10 personnel return from deployment, it's important for us to recognize the contributions, sacrifices and extraordinary efforts of our spouses and families. They endured the separation from our deployed personnel while missing and worrying about their loved ones. Such separations can cause a lot of stress. It's never easy to handle everything at home – from kids, to bills, to maintenance – and couple that with fears for the safety of their deployed spouse, it can be overwhelming at times.

Our Spouse Reintegration Program is designed to address the issues associated with this kind of stress and strain. We want our spouses to know that the right focus is being placed on their well-being: physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and who they can turn to for help. Commanders and supervisors at all levels want to make sure our families' needs are addressed and taken care of as they make the sometimes

difficult transition back to normal family life. Agencies and personnel who have the responsibility for these tasks will work with our families to ensure their reintegration goes smoothly. Reintegration is a process, not an event. It's important to take care of urgent needs and to not procrastinate on essential responsibilities dealing with relationships, health or financial matters. Patience and allowing sufficient time will facilitate each family coming together again.

We've developed a detailed Spouse Reintegration Guide, which can be obtained from key spouses, commanders and first sergeants. It explains what the reintegration program is, why we have it, some areas of reunion concern that need particular attention, and outlines the returning military member's reintegration program.

Along with the guide, we are holding spouse reintegration sessions in each unit with members returning from deployment. At each session, we will have a senior key spouse, chaplain, family support center representative and family advocacy representative. We will also have a session at the Deployed Spouses Meal on Tuesday at the La Dolce Vita dining facility.

Another really informative program we're offering is the True Colors, "Keys to Personal Success," course to couples who would like to attend. It's a personality assessment course that helps each person identify their personality characteristics and also learn how to interact with people of other personality types.

In my nearly two years at Aviano, I've been constantly impressed by how stable our families and our overall community are. We can attribute this in large part to the self-sacrifice and dedication of our military spouses. By standing behind their loved ones, our spouses are serving as well. We are grateful for the wonderful support our spouses provide and give them our thanks. They've taken care of us all, and we're all better for it.

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## Recognizing The World's Finest

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On behalf of the Aviano First Sergeants Council, Aviano Top Three Association and the Aviano Elementary School deployment club, I would like to thank the following people who made the second children's deployment day possible: Kris Kessler, Gil Corpuz, Rodney Harris, Michael Hollingsworth, Daniel Frey, all the parent volunteers, Angelique Orsini, Brynn Ramadanovic, Alvin Franklin, Jason Napoleoni, Russell Gee, Miranda Jarvis, Alfio Bortolussi, Shannon Collard, Matthew Cassity, Eric Alber, Elaine LaJeunesse, Denise Hodge, Dan Faught, LaTonya Davis, Shawn Darragh, Mathew Aldridge, Lavell Jackson, William Bullock, Cristal Bullock, Lorenzo Steele, Naomi Woolford-Drakes, Nathan Doza, Liliana Moreno, Kori Daniels, David Leonardis, Adam Richards, Marcus Smith, Joseph Rodrigo, James Scott, Phillipe Lebrun, Daniel Ball, Dennis Luzano, Jonathan Mills, Ronnie Bushay, James Scott, Kirk Johnson, Randy Judy, Joseph Valois, Gene Fonseca, Wavelon Jackson, William Richards, Niki Leber, Kristi Morrell, Justin Devaney, John Pillarella, James Castillo, William Dellick, Christopher May, Derrick Wells, Marilyn Machay, Joseph Rohde, Carl Schlender, Thomas Hausner, Joseph Villa, Gregory Bobzin, Zachary Holden, Adam Roehl, and Michael Osmun. For any others missed, I humbly apologize. It took the work of this many people from Team Aviano to successfully "deploy" 60 children. Thank you all!

- Senior Master Sgt. John Roth, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

**Submission info:** We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

**Commentaries:** Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Kudos:** Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.